J-1 Status Presentation
ISSO: J Immigration Advisors

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ISSO: Advising Services

- Appointments
  - Can be scheduled online at www.isso.iastate.edu
  - 20 minutes
  - In person or phone appointments

- E-mail
  - isso@iastate.edu
  - Response rate is a maximum of 2 working days
ISSO: J Immigration Information

- Academic Training
- Change of Academic Level
- J-2 Dependent
- J-2 Work Permission
- Program Extension
- Reduced Course Load
- Reentry to ISU for Graduate Students
- Transfer From ISU
- Sponsored Students
- Waiver of Two Year Home Residency Requirement

ISSO Web Page – www.isso.iastate.edu
ISSO: Events

- Cultural Ambassador Program
- English Together
- Friendships International
- I-LEAD
- Trips
- International First Year Experience Seminar
- Weekly ISSO Newsletter
ISSO Mission Statement

The mission of the International Students and Scholars Office is to provide immigration and cross-cultural expertise within a welcoming and supportive environment for international students and scholars throughout their university experience.

The area most frequently used by international students, scholars, and their families is the International Students & Scholars Office (ISSO) located in Room 3248 Memorial Union. The International Student Advisers (ISA) working in ISSO assist international students with maintenance of their immigration status, U.S. employment regulations, and provide support with social, cultural, financial, and personal concerns. Staff in the Scholar Unit of ISSO work with ISU departments to bring scholars to campus by preparing immigration documents or filing immigration petitions and by providing guidance on employment regulations. These staff members also advise scholars on maintenance of their immigration status, U.S. employment regulations, and provide support with social, cultural, financial, and personal concerns.
Immigration Documents

- Passport
- Visa
- I-94
- DS-2019
Immigration Document: Passport

- Your passport is issued by the federal government of your country of citizenship.
- You MUST have a valid passport to enter the U.S.
  - Must be valid for at least 6 months into the future
- You MUST have a valid passport to remain in the U.S.
Immigration Document: Visa

- You MUST have a valid visa to enter the U.S.
  - Renew at a U.S. consulate outside the U.S.

- You do NOT need a valid visa to remain in the U.S.

- Visa Class
- Entries [Allowed]
  - M = Multiple
- Expiration Date
Immigration Document: I-94

- You received an I-94 record when entering the U.S.
  - U.S. CBP entered your information in a database
  - Obtain a copy of your I-94 record at www.cbp.gov/I94

- I-94 Number
- Expiration Date
  - D/S = Duration of Status
- Class of Admission
- Immigration Status
You MUST have a valid DS-2019 to enter the U.S.

You MUST have a valid DS-2019 to remain in the U.S.

J-1 status is extended by extending your DS-2019

**Immigration Document: DS-2019**
Immigration Documents

- **Name on all legal documents must match**
  - Immigration documents
  - ISU records (including ISU Card)
  - Iowa driver’s license or Iowa ID card (if obtained)
  - Social Security Card (obtained if working in U.S.)

- **Make copies of your immigration documents**
  - Passport, J-1 visa, I-94 record, DS-2019

- **Carry copy of documents while in Ames area**
  - Carry original documents when outside Ames area

- **Keep original DS-2019 even after leaving**
  - Historical record of your U.S. immigration history
Maintaining Your J-1 Status
Maintaining Status: New Address

- If you move, you must report your new address to ISSO within **10 days**.
  - Use Access Plus to update your address
  - Your address must be the physical location where you live
    - It cannot be a post office box nor an ISU departmental address
  - ISSO is responsible for reporting the new address to SEVIS
Maintaining Status: Enrollment

- **Register full time** during the fall & spring semesters.
  - 12 semester hours for undergraduate students
  - 9 semester hours for graduate students
    - This may differ for graduate students with an assistantship

- Consult with an ISSO advisor before enrolling in a WWW (on-line) or distance education course
Maintaining Status: Enrollment

- **Allowance for reduced course load**
  - Immigration regulations define the **valid reasons** for a reduced course load
    - Academic
      - Can only be used once
    - Academic Training
    - Medical
    - Final semester

- **Requesting a reduced course load**
  - Submit [Cystart](#) e-form to request a Reduced Course Load
    - Your major professor/academic adviser will be asked to verify information
  - Submit prior to dropping below full time
Maintaining Status: Extension

- Extension to complete current program objective
- Must request prior to end date on DS-2019
- Student non-degree category limited to 24 months
Maintaining Status: Change Level

- Begin new academic program at a higher educational level
- Must request prior to end date on DS-2019
- Must continue with same program objective
- Not an option for student non-degree category
Maintaining Status: Transfer

- Transfer of J program sponsor
  - Transfer is for immigration purposes
  - During current program
  - After current program

- Must continue with same program objective
Maintaining Status: Employment

- Must be in good academic standing
- Must continue to enroll full time (fall, spring)
- Must obtain permission in advance from your Program Sponsor
  - Authorization valid for 12 months only
- May work 20 hours each week (fall, spring) on campus
- May work full time during summer vacation and official ISU breaks on campus
Maintaining Status: Employment

- Types of Employment
  - On-Campus
    - Employer is Iowa State University
  - Off-Campus
    - Extremely Rare!
    - Necessary because of serious, urgent, and unforeseen economic circumstances
Maintaining Status: Employment

- Types of Employment
  - Academic Training
    - Must be directly related to current program of study
    - Limit of 18 months for bachelors or masters students
    - Limit of 36 months for doctoral students
    - Limit of time equal to time spent studying for students in non-degree programs
Maintaining Status: Travel

- **Travel Outside the U.S.**
  - Obtain travel endorsement on DS-2019
    - Leave with ISSO receptionist
    - Pick up after 2 working days
  - Need valid passport and visa to re-enter U.S.
  - Can only re-enter if resuming J program activity
    - **No travel** to Canada, Mexico, or contiguous islands after semester in which you complete your final classes or thesis
Maintaining Status: Completion

- **Program Completion**
  - Your program completion date is when you complete your program requirements.
  - Must notify program sponsor if completing more than 30 days before DS-2019 end date
  - Cannot work once program is completed, except for academic training
  - Must leave the U.S. within 30 days from completing your academic program
Maintaining Status: Health Insurance

- **Health Insurance Requirement**
  - Self and dependents in J-2 status
  - Meets minimum coverage amounts
  - Valid for the length of your J-1 program
The U.S. Department of Homeland Security holds you responsible for maintaining your J-1 status.

Check ISU email regularly.

ISU policy states that all official e-mail be sent to a student’s ISU e-mail account.
Violation of J-1 Status

- Failure to enroll full-time
- Failure to update ISSO with living address
- Failure to receive on-campus work authorization
- Working off-campus without authorization
- Failure to maintain health insurance that meets DOS requirements

Can have life long consequences!
J-2 Status

- J-2 Dependents
  - Allowed to enroll in classes or pursue a degree
  - Allowed to apply for work permission
  - J-2 status dependent on J-1 spouse or parent
    - Cannot remain a J-2 dependent once you reach age 21
212(e) or Two Year Rule

- Two-Year Home Country Physical Presence Requirement
- Government Funding
  - U.S.
  - Home Government
- Exchange Visitor Skills List
  - Academic field of J program
  - Country of citizenship
212(e) or Two Year Rule

- Must be present in your home country for at least two years time after completion of your J-1 program
  - Cannot return to U. S. in H or L status until after completing 2 years home residence
  - Cannot return to U. S. in permanent residence status
Questions?

We hope you have an enjoyable experience at Iowa State University!